CSE 3400 - Introduction to Computer & Network Security
(aka: Introduction to Cybersecurity)

Lecture 7
Hash Functions – Part II

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From Textbook Slides by Prof. Amir Herzberg
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Outline

- Hash based MACs.
- Domain extension.
- Merkle digest and Merkle trees.
- Blockchains.

Hash based MAC

- Hash-based MAC is often faster than block-cipher MAC
- How? Heuristic constructions:

$$\textbf{Prepend Key: } MAC_k^{PK}(m) = h(k + m)$$

$$\textbf{Append Key: } MAC_k^{AK}(m) = h(m + k)$$

$$\textbf{Message-in-the-Middle: } MAC_k^{MitM}(m) = h(k + m + k)$$

  - Are these secure assuming CRHF ? OWF ? Both ?
    - No.
- But: all ‘secure in random oracle model’

Hash-based MAC: HMAC

- HMAC uses only the unkeyed hash function h:

$$HMAC_k(x) = h(k \oplus opad \,||\, h(k \oplus ipad \,||\, x))$$

  - *opad, ipad:* fixed sequences (of 36x, 5Cx resp.)
  - It is a secure MAC under 'reasonable assumptions' [beyond our scope]
- Widely deployed
- More results, more exposure ➔ confidence!
- Hash functions are useful for MACs in another way:
  - Hash then MAC for efficiency.

Digest Schemes

- Generalization of collision-resistant hash
  - Input is a **sequence** of messages
  - Output is n-bit **digest**, denoted Δ
- Three types of schemes:
  - Digest functions (or accumulators)
  - Merkle Digest (and Merkle trees)
  - Blockchains
- In other textbooks, this is referred to as Domain Extension.

Digest Functions

- Generalization of collision-resistant hash
  - Input is a **sequence** of messages
  - Output is n-bit **digest**, denoted Δ

Definition *A* digest function Δ *is an efficiently computable function (in PPT) that maps blocks (finite sequences of binary strings) to n-bit binary string* *i.e.,* $\Delta : (\{0,1\}^*)^* \to \{0,1\}^n$, *where* n *is the* security parameter.

Digest function Δ *is* collision resistant *if the* digest collision-resistance advantage $\varepsilon^{DCR}_{\mathcal{A},\Delta}(n)$ *is negligible (in* n*), for every efficient adversary* $\mathcal{A} \in PPT$*, where:*

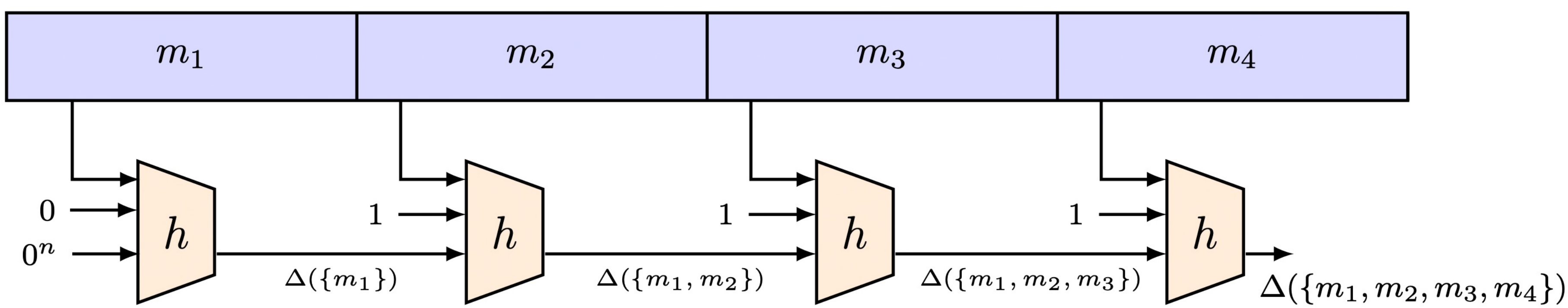
$$\varepsilon^{DCR}_{\mathcal{A},\Delta}(n) \equiv \Pr\left((B, B') \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(1^n) \ s.t. \ B \neq B' \wedge \Delta(B) = \Delta(B')\right)$$

The Merkle-Damgard Digest Function

- The Merkle-Damgard construction of:
  - Collision-Resistant Digest function from CRHF
  - VIL CRHF from compression function (FIL CRHF): $|m_i| = n$
- Idea: hash iteratively, message by message:

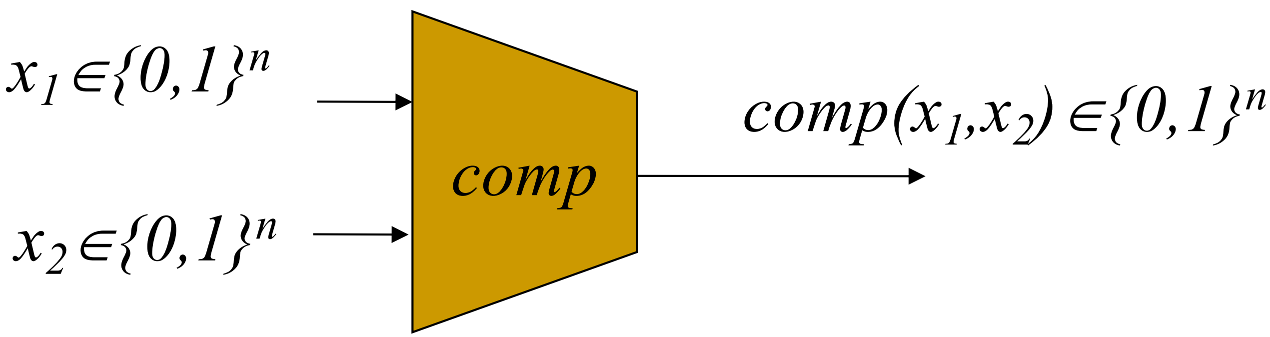
$\Delta(m_1, \ldots, m_l) = h(\Delta(m_1, \ldots, m_{l-1})||1||m_l)$; $\Delta(m_1) = h(0^{n+1}||m_1)$

- Lemma 4.2: if h is a CRHF, then Δ is a collision-resistant digest
- Proof… (see details in textbook)



VIL CRHF from FIL CRHF

- Recall: design and cryptanalyze simple (FIL) function, use it to construct strong (VIL) function
- Build VIL CRHF $\{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ from FIL CRHF (aka <u>compression function</u>) $comp: \{0,1\}^m \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$
  - E.g. $m=2n$, i.e. $comp: \{0,1\}^{2n} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

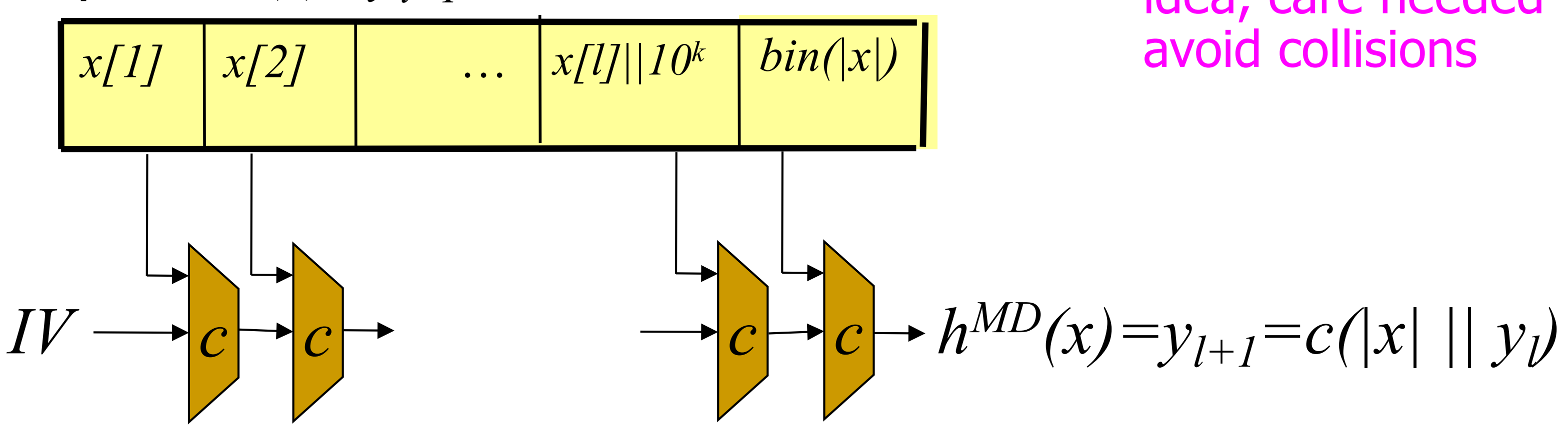


  - The Merkle-Damgard constructs a CRHF from a compression function
    - Requires \`MD-strengthening' extension (next slide)

Merkle-Damgard Length-Padding

- Aka Merkle - Damgard Strengthening
- Let $pad(x)=1||0^k||\mathrm{bin}\,(|x|)$; $x'=x||pad(x)$
  - Where $bin\,(|x|)$ is the L–bit binary representation of $|x|$
  - And: $|x|+|pad(x)|\equiv 0 \bmod L$
  - Simplify: assume $|x|\equiv 0 \bmod L$, $|pad(x)|=L$
- Let $y_0=IV$ be some fixed L bits (IV=Initialization Value)
- For $i=1,..|x'|/L$ let $y_i=c(x'[i] \,||\, y_{i-1})$
- Output $h^{MD}(x)=y_{l+1}$

This is just a high level idea, care needed to avoid collisions



The Digest-Chain Extend Function

- Beyond digest and collision resistance: sequence-related integrity mechanisms
- For digest-chain, the **extend function:**
  - Input: digest and 'next' sequence
  - Output: digest (of entire sequence)
  - Correctness requirement:

$$Extend(\Delta_l, M_{l+1,l'}) = \Delta(M_l + M_{l+1,l'})$$

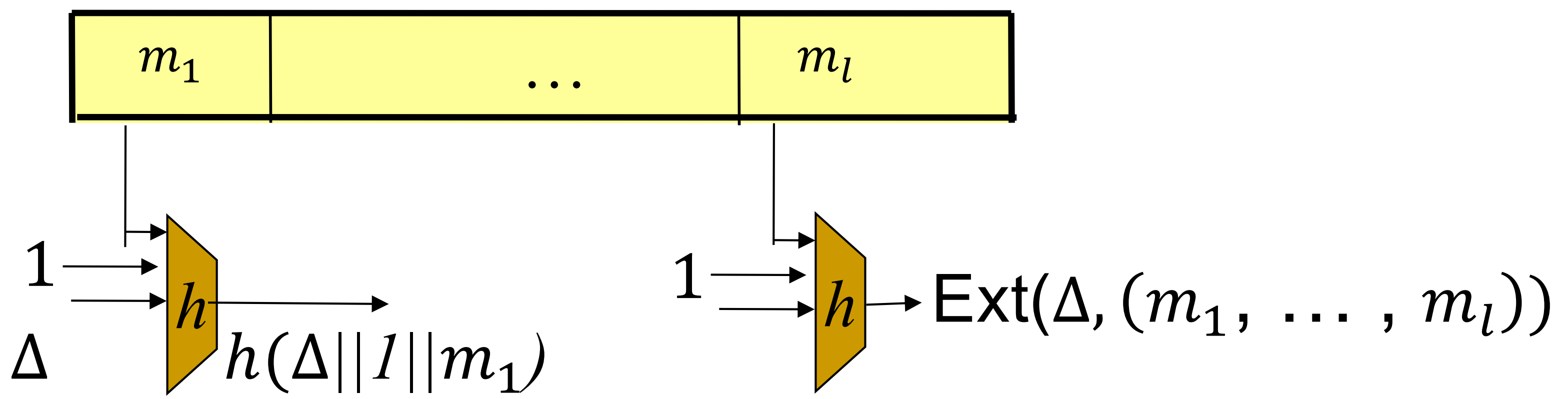
Use to (1) extend chain, (2) validate new digest (with new seq.), or (3) use digest to validate a message

The Merkle-Damgard Extend Function

- We can define Extend for Merkle-Damgard:
  - Idea: Just continue last digest!

$$\mathcal{MD}^h.Extend\,(\Delta, \{m_1, \ldots, m_l\}) \equiv \begin{cases} \text{Let } \Delta_1 \leftarrow h(\Delta + 1 + m_1) \\ \text{For } l = 1\text{: } \Delta_1 \\ \text{For } l > 1\text{:} \\ \qquad \mathcal{MD}^h.Extend\,(\Delta_1, \{m_2, \ldots, m_l\}) \end{cases}$$

- Not secure to be used to construct a MAC!



Merkle Digest Schemes

- Digest function $\Delta: \{m_i \epsilon \{0,1\}^*\} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\boldsymbol{n}}$
  - Collision-resistance requirement
- Validation of Inclusion: PoI and $VerPoI$
  - PoI function: compute Proof of Inclusion
  - $VerPoI$ function: verify PoI
  - Both: mandatory and optimized
  - Optional, also Proof-of-Non-Inclusion (PoNI)
- Extending the Sequence: PoC and $VerPoC$
  - PoC: Proof of Consistency (from old digest to new)
  - $VerPoC$ function: verify PoC
  - Optional

Merkle digest scheme: definition

Definition (Merkle digest scheme)**.** *A* Merkle digest scheme $\mathcal{M}$ *is a tuple of three PPT functions* $(\mathcal{M}.\Delta, \mathcal{M}.PoI, \mathcal{M}.VerPoI)$*, where:*

$\mathcal{M}.\Delta$ *is the* Merkle tree digest *function, whose input is a sequence of messages* $B = \{m_i \in \{0,1\}^*\}_i$ *and whose output is an* n*-bit* digest*:* $\mathcal{M}.\Delta : (\{0,1\}^*)^* \to \{0,1\}^n$.

$\mathcal{M}.PoI$ *is the* Proof-of-Inclusion *function, whose input is a sequence of messages* $B = \{m_i \in \{0,1\}^*\}_i$, an integer $i \in [1, |B|]$ *(the index of one message in* B*), and whose output is a* Proof-of-Inclusion *(*PoI*):* $\mathcal{M}.PoI : (\{0,1\}^*)^* \times \mathbb{N} \to \{0,1\}^*$.

$\mathcal{M}.VerPoI$ *is the* Verify-Proof-of-Inclusion *predicate, whose inputs are digest* $d \in \{0,1\}^n$*, message* $m \in \{0,1\}^*$*, index* $i \in \mathbb{N}$*, proof* $p \in \{0,1\}^*$*, and whose output is a bit (*1 *for 'true' or* 0 *for 'false'):* $\mathcal{M}.VerPoI : \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^* \times \mathbb{N} \times \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}$.

Merkle digest: correctness and security

- Correctness means that on input a valid PoI, VerPoI will output 1.
- Security means that a PPT adversary cannot find collisions against the digest functions, and cannot forge a valid PoI.

Proof of Consistency (PoC)

- A Merkle digest scheme supports PoC if it has two more functions:

$\mathcal{M}.PoC(B_C, B_N)$ *is the* Extend and Proof-of-Consistency *function* PoC*, whose input are two sequences,* B_C *and* B_N*, and whose output* $p_{CN} = \mathcal{M}.PoC(B_C, B_N)$ *is a binary string which we call the* Proof-of-Consistency *from* $\Delta_C \equiv \mathcal{M}.\Delta(B_C)$ *to* $\Delta_{CN} \equiv \mathcal{M}.\Delta(B_{CN})$*.*

$\mathcal{M}.VerPoC(\Delta_C, \Delta_{CN}, l_C, l_N, p) \in \{\mathbf{True}, \mathbf{False}\}$ *is the* Verify-Proof-of-Consistency *predicate, whose inputs are the two digests* Δ_C, Δ_{CN}*, the numbers of entries (*l_C *and* l_N*), and a string (*PoC*)* p*.*

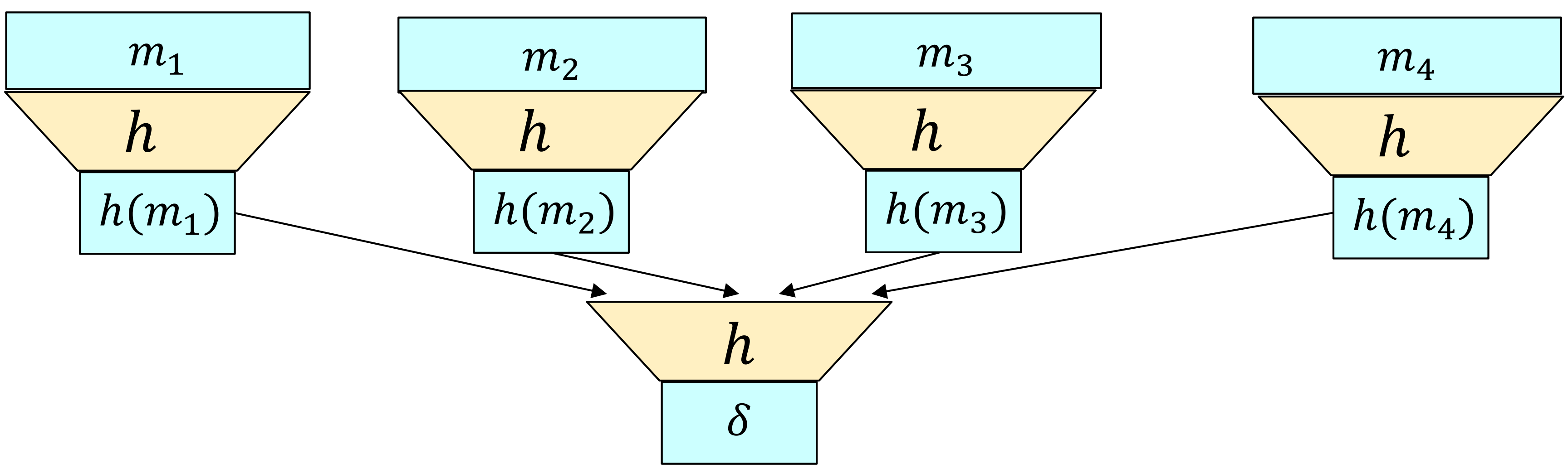
- Correctness and security of PoC:
  - Correctness: A valid generated PoC will cause VerPoC to output 1.
  - Security: a PPT adversary cannot forge a valid PoC.

Two-layered Merkle tree

- Short digest validates integrity of large object
  - Often, object consists of multiple 'files'
- Merkle tree : integrity for many 'messages'
  - Hash each 'message' in block, then hash-of-hashes

$$\delta = h(h(m_1)||h(m_2)||h(m_3)||h(m_4))$$

  - Validate each 'message' independently
    - Advantages: **efficiency** (computation, communication) and **privacy**



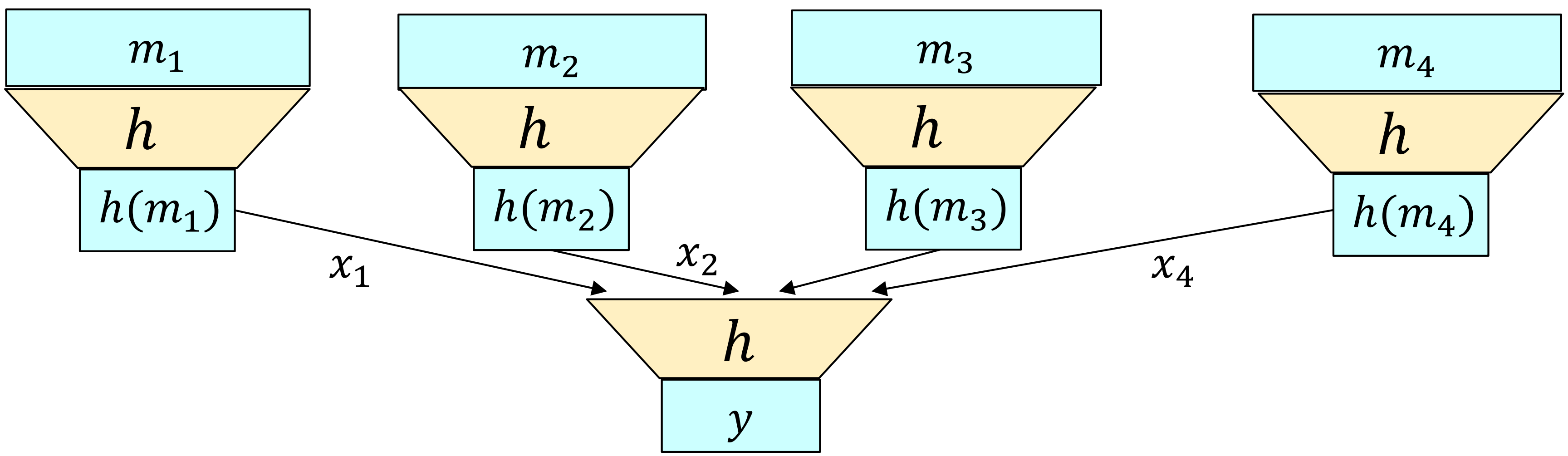
Two-layered Merkle tree

- Hash each item in block separately:

$$x_1 = h(m_1), x_2 = h(m_2), \quad \ldots$$

- Digest is hash of hashes:

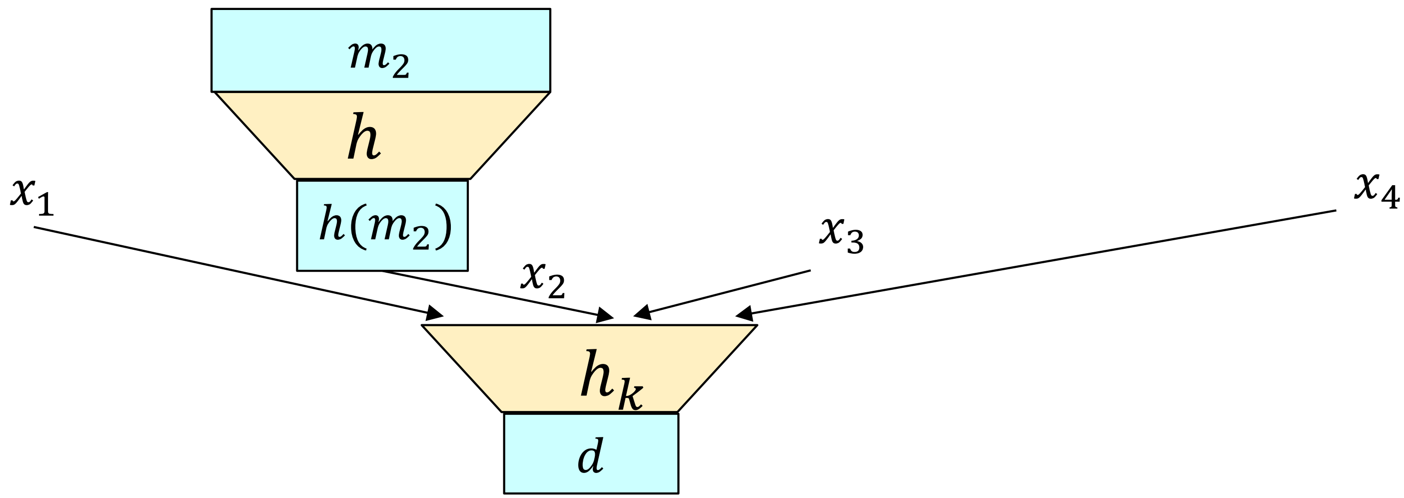
$$y = \Delta(m_1, m_2, \ldots) = h(x_1 || x_2 || \ldots)$$



Allows each user to receive, validate only required items. How?

To verify inclusion of m_2 ...

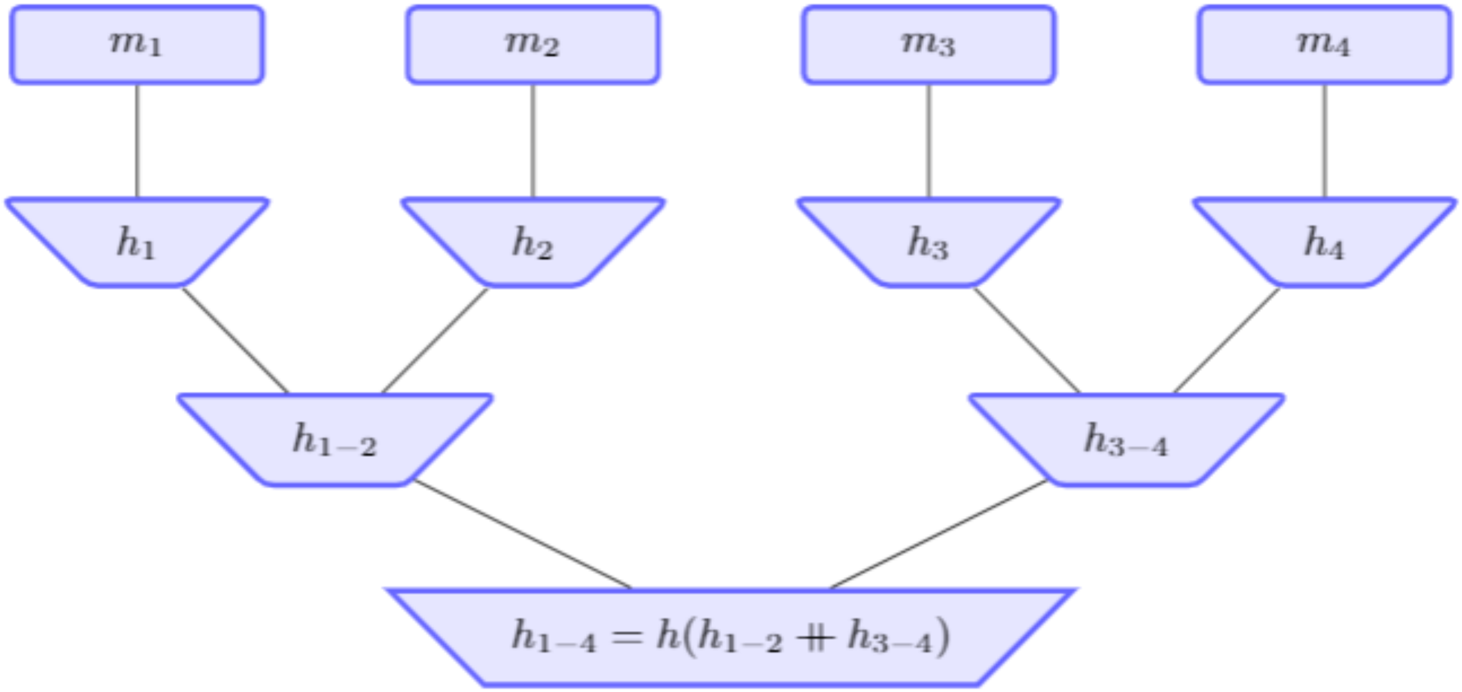
$$\begin{aligned}
2l\mathcal{MT}.\Delta(m_1,\ldots,m_l) &\equiv h\left[h(m_1) + \!\!+ \ldots + \!\!+ h(m_l)\right] \\
2l\mathcal{MT}.PoI((m_1,\ldots,m_l),j) &\equiv \{h(m_i)\}_{i=1}^{l} \\
2l\mathcal{MT}.VerPoI(d,m,i,\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{l}) &\equiv \left[\begin{array}{c} \textsc{True}\ \textit{if}\ x_i = h(m),\ \textit{and} \\ d = h(x_1 + \!\!+ \ldots + \!\!+ x_l) \end{array}\right]
\end{aligned}$$



Receive and validate only m_2. Other hashes still required, though.

The Merkle Tree Construction

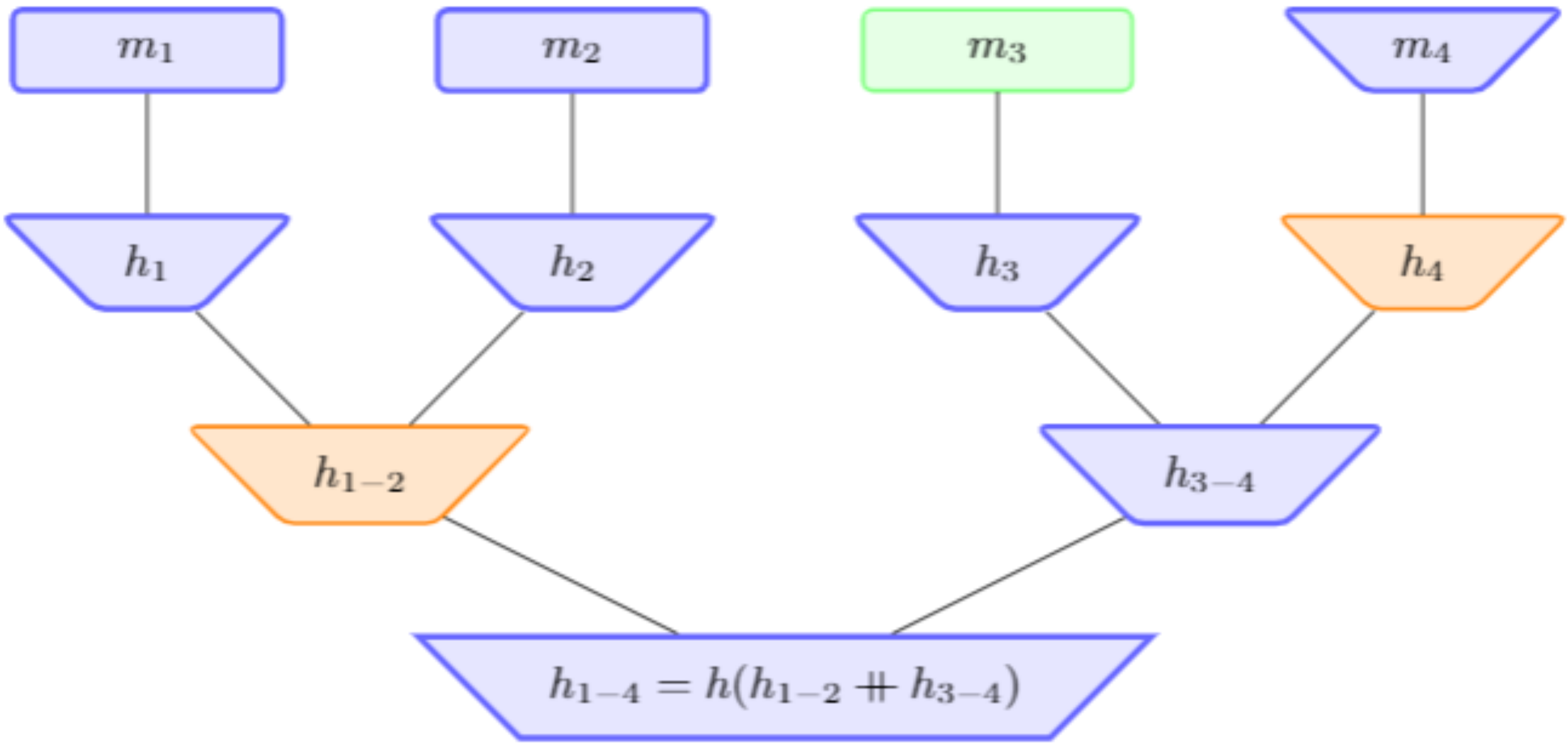
- Reduce length of ‘proofs’ – send less hashes of ‘other msgs’



$$\mathcal{MT}.\Delta(M) \equiv \begin{cases} \text{If } L = 0: & h(m_1) \\ \text{Else} & h\left(\mathcal{MT}.\Delta\left(m_1, \ldots, m_{2^{L-1}}\right) + \right. \\ & \left. + \mathcal{MT}.\Delta\left(m_{2^{L-1}+1}, \ldots, m_{2^L}\right)\right) \end{cases}$$

Merkle Tree: Proof of Inclusion (PoI)

- To prove inclusion of m_3 , send also 'proofs': h_{1-2}, h_4



Blockchains

- Next slides set.

Covered Material From the Textbook

- Chapter 3: Sections 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9
- Chapter 4: Section 4.6.3

Thank You!